

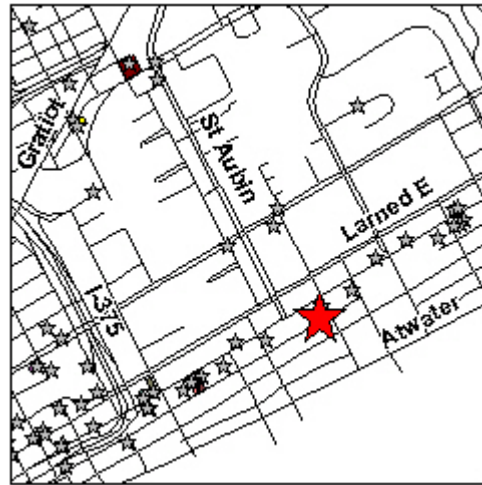
McGregor Carriage House

1995 East Woodbridge

Local ✓ 12/16/83
State
State Marker
National



McGregor Carriage House



Historic overview:

The McGregor Carriage House is one of only four carriage houses on the East Riverfront. It survives from the days when East Jefferson was the Queen of thoroughfares lined with the mansions of the wealthy. Unfortunately, the McGregor House, fronting on Jefferson Avenue, did not survive the rapid commercialization of Jefferson Avenue in the twentieth century; it was demolished in 1936.

James McGregor (1830-1909) was born in Scotland, and moved to Ontario and then Detroit in 1860. He was superintendent of the car department of Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad, and later became general superintendent of the Michigan Car Works and the Michigan Peninsular Car Company. McGregor was involved with industrial growth, and in the financial community. He was president of the Home Savings Bank for ten years, and was on the Board of Directors of Detroit Trust Company.

The McGregor House and accompanying carriage house were located on the St. Aubin Farm, one of the original tracts of land granted by Cadillac to early settlers of Detroit. In 1734 the Intendant of New France regranted this land to Jean Cass St. Aubin. St. Aubin Avenue was named after Francois St. Aubin in 1847, and this land was subdivided in 1858. [The first St. Aubin (or St. O'Bin, as it is referred to in the early land transactions) was a discharged French soldier who decided to settle at the post in 1709 when Detroit had no more than 200 residents.] In 1866, after the subdivision of the St. Aubin farm, Jefferson Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was built on what would become the McGregor homestead. McGregor tore down the church and his house and carriage house were built by 1885.

